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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

IN REPLY REFER TO:
7330-7/1700A3

Honorable Jolene Unsoeld
U.S. House of Representatives
1508 Longworth Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Unsoeld:

This is in reply to your letter of February 8, 1993, in which you inquired on behalf of your constituents, Mr. & Mrs. William Hughes, regarding the Notice of Proposed Rule Making (Notice) in PR Docket No. 92-235, 57 FR 54034 (1992). This Notice proposes comprehensive changes to the Commission's Rules governing the private land mobile radio services operating in the frequency bands below 512 MHz.

Those rules have been in place for over 20 years. While they have been amended on numerous occasions since that time, they nonetheless embody regulatory concepts based on yesteryear's technology and, unless changed, will stifle the growth and development of private land mobile radio technology and services, which are used primarily by local governments, public safety entities, and businesses to enhance their productivity. The Commission issued the Notice, therefore, to solicit comment from all interested persons on a wide variety of proposals designed to increase channel capacity, to promote more efficient use of these channels, and to simplify the rules governing use of these channels.

The proposals in the Notice reflect to a large extent concepts and proposals submitted in the initial inquiry stages of this proceeding. None of the proposals set forth in the Notice, however, are engraved in stone. Indeed, the proposals represent our best judgment at this stage of the proceeding on steps that must be taken to improve the regulatory climate for users of the private land mobile radio spectrum below 512 MHz. To this end, some of the critical issues that must be resolved relate to channel spacing, the amount of time provided to users to convert to new technical standards, how the 300 to 500 percent increase in channel capacity should be licensed, how the rules should be written to provide users technical flexibility, and whether the current nineteen radio services should be consolidated and, if so, how. I have enclosed for your information a copy of that part of the Notice that describes the numerous proposals.

Mr. and Mrs. Hughes are specifically concerned about the impact of these changes on radio control (R/C) hobby users. Enclosed is a discussion paper concerning our proposals for the 72-76 MHz band. In short, we expect there would be no adverse impact on R/C operations because of any proposal contained in the Notice.

No. of Copies rec'd 2 copies
LISA BODE

Honorable Jolene Unsoeld

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We are, of course, sensitive to the concerns of both users of private land mobile radio spectrum and R/C hobbyists. We will, therefore, take into careful consideration all their comments. Your constituents' concerns will be fully evaluated when we develop final rules in this proceeding. As indicated in the Notice, we remain convinced that without significant regulatory change in radio operations in the bands below 512 MHz, the quality of communications in the private land mobile radio services will continue to deteriorate to the point of endangering public safety and the national economy.

We want to thank you for your interest in this proceeding. Comments on the proposals set forth in the Notice are due May 28, 1993, and Reply Comments are due July 14, 1993. We expect final rules to be issued in 1994. We urge your constituents to file formal comments on all aspects of the proposals.

Sincerely,



for Ralph A. Haller
Chief, Private Radio Bureau

Enclosures

cc:

Chief, PRBureau

Chief, LM&M Divison

Docket Files, Room 222

P&P Branch File (Pink)

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CONGRESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE TRACKING SYSTEM
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LETTER REPORT

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9300613	02/16/93	02/08/93	03/01/93	

TITLE	MEMBERS NAME
Congresswoman	Jolene Unsoeld

REPLY FOR SIG OF
BC

CONSTITUENT'S NAME	SUBJECT
Mr & Mrs William Hughesinq.	comments on PR Docket 92-235

REF TO	REF TO	REF TO	REF TO
PRB/Lmm			
2-17-93			

DATE	DATE	DATE	DATE
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REMARKS:

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JOLENE UNSOELD

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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HOUSING AND CONSUMER INTERESTS

February 8, 1993

Ellen Rafferty, Congressional Liaison
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Ms. Rafferty:

I am writing on behalf of Congresswoman Jolene Unsoeld's constituents, Mr. and Mrs. William Hughes of Salkum, Washington, who have expressed concern about some pending FCC regulations which will affect their ability to fly model aircraft. I wrote to you last week on behalf of another constituent with the same concern, but because the Hughes' letter is much more specific in describing the situation, I have enclosed it for your further information.

We will appreciate any information or assistance you can provide to help us respond to the Hughes' concerns. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Donna Levin

Donna Levin
District Representative

Enclosure

601 Main Street, Suite 505
Vancouver, WA 98660

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Dear *John Unsold,*

I am very concerned about proposed rules that are currently under consideration by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The proceeding is PR Docket 92-235. If adopted, the new will greatly reduce the usability of frequencies currently assigned for model use and increase the risk of accidents and attendant liability for controlling model airplanes.

OUR RADIO CONTROL FREQUENCIES ARE IN THE 72-76 MHz Band. This is primarily used for private land mobile dispatch operators. However, our Radio Control frequencies in this band are far enough apart from the land mobile frequencies that we have been able to share the band without either use interfering with the others.

Now the FCC wants to create more land mobile frequencies by splitting them into narrow bandwidths and rearranging the band plan. As a result, many land mobile frequencies will move closer to the radio control frequencies and cause interference to radio control operators. I am told that of the 50 FREQUENCIES THAT ARE PRESENTLY AVAILABLE FOR RADIO CONTROL OF MODEL AIRPLANES, ONLY 19 FREQUENCIES WILL BE LEFT IF THESE New Rules are adopted.

When we fly our model airplanes under radio control, we go to great lengths to assure the safety of the operators and bystanders and the protection of property. Many of our safety precautions involve the careful coordination and use of radio control frequencies. If the number of usable frequencies is diminished as proposed by the FCC, the remaining frequencies will become congested, the margin of safety will be greatly decreased.

Please understand that many model airplanes have wing spans up to 10 feet and weigh as much as 30 or 40 pounds. The models themselves are expensive to build; but more to the point, they are capable of causing property damage, serious injury, or even death if radio interference causes the operator to lose control of the craft. We often fly our model at organized events and contests where hundreds of operators participate. We need the use of full complement of radio frequencies in order to assure a safe flying environment.

I do not think it is wise of the FCC to seek to improve the operating conditions of land mobile radio users at the expense of radio control modelers. The FCC may not think we are as important as business users of radio, but we have a considerable investment in our models and in our

equipment. The hobby provides many hours of enjoyment to thousands of people like myself and contributes to the advancement and development of the commercial aviation industry.

Please help me continue the safety enjoyment of my pastime by not allowing the FCC to carry out its proposals for the 72-76 MHZ band.

SINCERELY

FROM THE LEWIS COUNTY RADIO CONTROLL
CLUB

IMYSELF HAVE 4 RADIO
I ALSO HAVE AT LEAST 4 AIRPLANES
I HAVE SPENT SEVERAL OF HUNDREDS OF DOLLARS TO BE ABLE TO ENJOY
MY HOBBY AND ENJOY MAKING OTHERS HAPPY THAT LIKE TO WATCH ME FLY
MY MODELS.

I BELONG TO A CLUB OF 34 MEMBERS AT THIS TIME WHICH IS STILL
GROWING.

I ALSO ATTEND SEVERAL EVENTS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR WITH CLUB MEMBERS
WE ENJOY DOING THIS FOR THE PUBLIC.

OUR CLUB ALSO TAKES CARE OF THE HOBBY DEPARTMENT AT THE
SOUTH WEST WASHINGTON FAIR IN CHEHALIS, CENTRALIA. WE ARE
THE SUPPORT OF THAT DEPARTMENT WITH OUR R/C MODELS WE WOULD
LIKE TO BE ABLE TO GO ON DOING THIS FOR THE PEOPLE BUT WITHOUT YOU
SUPPORT WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SERVE THE PEOPLE.

SO PLEASE THINK HARD ON THIS MATTER TO HELP US.

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING

William M. Hughes